

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 /071 W
-----161835Z 066326 /41

R 161717Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0695
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02725

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV. PINT, PDEV. UK
SUBJECT: DEVOLUTION: REFERENDUM APPROVED AND TIMETABLE
SCHEDULED

REF: LONDON 2347

1. COMMONS FEBRUARY 16 VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY (GOVERNMENT MAJORITY 207) TO ENDORSE THE PRINCIPLE OF REFERENDA IN SCOTLAND AND WALES. GOVERNMENT HAD EARLIER CONCEDED TO CRITICS OPPOSING. ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS, THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL TO MAKE REFERENDA BINDING. THEY WILL BE "CONSULTIVE", AND IN THE EVENT EITHER PROVINCE VOTES AGAINST DEVOLUTION, PARLIAMENT WILL HAVE TO PASS A SPECIAL ACT ANNULING THE RESPECTIVE PORTIONS OF THE DEVOLUTION ACT. DETAILS OF REFERENDA WILL BE DEBATED LATER DURING COMMITTEE STAGES OF DEVOLUTION BILL.

2. THE GOVERNMENT WHIPS OFFICE ADVISED EMBOFFS THAT LEADER OF THE HOUSE MICHAEL FOOT FEBRUARY 17 WILL ANNOUNCE THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO INTRODUCE A TIME-TABLE MOTION ON FEBRUARY 22. THE WHIPS OFFICE BELIEVES THAT THE TIMETABLE WILL PROBABLY BE APPROVED, BUT
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ACKNOWLEDGES THAT ITS HEADCOUNTS OF FIRMLY COMMITTED MPS ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO ASSURE PASSAGE. ONE MEMBER OF THE WHIPS OFFICE WAS EARLIER DETAILED TO CANVASS CONSERVATIVE MPS BELIEVED SYMPATHETIC TO DEVOLUTION. RESULTS OF THIS EFFORT CONFIRMED THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TORY MPS ARE AT LEAST CONSIDERING SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT OR ABSTAINING ON THE TIMETABLE, BUT PRODUCED FEW FIRM

COMMITMENTS.

3. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO GO ALL OUT IN OPPOSING THE TIME-TABLE MOTION. IF TORIES DO NOT MAKE A FULL EFFORT TO STOP THE MOTION, THE GOVERNMENT'S PROSPECTS WILL BE ENHANCED APPRECIABLY. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE TIMETABLE MOTION, ACCORDINGLY, REMAINS FLUID AND QUESTIONABLE, THOUGH WE ARE STILL INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE ODDS ON ITS ULTIMATE PASSAGE ARE BETTER THAN 50/50.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, REFERENDUMS, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, POLITICAL CONCESSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON02725
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS,021602 25X6 FMACHAK
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770055-0852
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197702102/ddudyaae.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Retention: 0
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Review Date: 11-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3234380
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 20010601
Subject: DEVOLUTION: REFERENDUM APPROVED AND TIMETABLE SCHEDULED
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PDEV, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d94f1fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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